30,00 DESTITUTE MUSLIMS ENROUTE TO INDIA

Refugees from Kazakistan

Three thousand destitude Muslims are on their way to British India through the territories of Kashmir. These include men, women and children who have been rendered homeless. They belong to the country known as Kazakistan and according to their own statement made before Kashmir authorities they have been driven out of their country. Though details of the political reasons which led to their leaving their own country are still unknown, this huge number of the followers of Islam are now seeking protection in British India.

In some earlier messages appearing in the British India press, these Muslims were described as "Chinese Muslim robbers" and it was stated that they had been looting in Tibet for some time past.

Driven Out

From the vast number of sheep, horses and yaks, which they possess, it is hard to believe that they are robbers by profession, It appears that having been driven out of their country long ago, and owing to the fact that they were not hospitably treated on their way, these people were led into conflict in order to maintain themselves. They have more than 25,000 sheep and goats, about 1,000 camels and about 5,000 horses and yaks with them.

On 6th October last this caravan came on the borders of the Kashmir State at a place known as Damchuk, about 200 miles away from Leh. Having been rendered desperate they came into clash with the Kashmir troops and suffered six casualties. They, however, surrendered on the condition that they should be allowed to pass peacefully through Kashmir to British India. This condition was agreed to by the Wazir at Leh and now the caravan is on its way to Srinagar.

It is hoped that the Government of India will make arrangements for these homeless wanderers who have suffered so much to settle in British India to earn theit livelihood.

The Nizam Elected Chancellor

Unanimous Decision of M. U. Court.

A Special Meeting of the Muslim University Court was held there on Sunday, November 30, Lieut-Col. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, presiding. Nawab Sadr Yar Jung Bahadur moved the following resolution:—

That His Exalted Highness General Asif Jah, Muzaffarul Mulk-wal-Mumalik, Nizamud Daula, Sultanul Uloom, Nawab Sir Mir Usman Ali Khan Bahadur, Fateh Jung, G.C.S.I., C.B.E., Faithful Ally of the British Government, be elected Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and be requested to be graciously pleased to accept the Chancellorship.

The resolution was unanimously passed amid accalamation. The meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect to His Exalted Highness without transacting other business.

Muslim University Union

Inter-College Competitive Debates

The All-India Inter-College Competitive Debates of the Muslim University Union will be held on December 14 and 15 at 6-30 p.m. in the Strachey Hall.

For the English debate on December 14 the subject is: "In the opinion of this House universal disarmament is essential for world peace and the progress of civilisation."

For the Urdu debate on December 15 the subject is: Nazar ko khira karti hai chamak Tahzeebe hazir ki; yeh sanna'i, magar jhoote nagon ki rezahkari hai.

Each constituent institution will be entitled to send two representatives for each debate, one to speak for, and the other against the proposition. Competitors will be the guests of the Union.

Special arrangements have been made for the accomodation of girl speakers with the Lady Principal of the Girl's College.

Special Article.

Is India Ripe for Democracy?

By **M. A. SHAKOOR, M.A., (Alig.)**

The Views expressed in the article are not necessarily those of The Dawn.

Perhaps the interrogation with which I open this may startle some of the readers, especially if they happen to be of the so-called nationalistic way of thinking. Today, after one year of 'Non-violent war' by the *Satyagraha* Army, under the command of its self-styled Generalissims, for establishing what they complacently call democratic self-government in India, when the 'communiques' issued from the Wardha General Head Quarters claim that "every thing is proceeding according to plan" it may seem idle to pose such a question at all. But the question is possed only to be answered. The present struggle is a struggle carried on in the name of the Indian masses. All mass struggles depend for their success upon the emotional excitement to which the mass mind can be worked up. Even in the present state of excitement to which the minds of the masses have been worked up by the astute politicians of the Congress ranks, it will not be alltogether in vain to appeal to them to look at the matter dispassionately.

Psychological Point.

Is India ripe for Democracy? One may view the question from different angles. It is not intended here to consider the constitutional and communal aspects of the problem. On the other hand, my object here is to examine the subject from a psychological point of view. In making this review the fundamental question whether Democracy of the western type is suitable to the condition and genius of the Indian people is left untouched, as it is not germane to the subject in hand

Democracy, as every one knows, is the government of the people, by the people. It is almost a truism that he alone can govern properly who can judge properly, It is indispensable to think properly. Now among the great mass of people that inhabit Indfa, how many in a thousand can think properly, at least think independently?

It is a sad tale to tell. When we see that even among the so-called intelligentsia of the country the number of people who can think independently is deplorably small, what can be said of the vast illiterate masses? More than ninety per cent of the people are illiterate. Even among the ten per cent literates who are, for the purposes of the Census Report, considered literates, how many are there who can understand and take lively interest in the events of the day in and outside India? To one whose vision is not bluned by political myopia and and whose judgment is not tainted by partizan zeal, it will be clear that there is little independent thinking among the Indian masses, their self-imposed leaders not excluded. I shall presently show, how rare this quality is even in the rank and file of the Congress who claim to be recognized as the Indian nation.

Reason.

Democracy is not built on mere sentiments. It is founded on reason, and capicity and freedom to exercise that faculty Sentimental regard and super stations. reverence for institutions or personalities, are not conducive to the healthy growth of democracy. It is not personality that counts but thought, and the one should not be confused with the other. We may have reverence for the personality of a leader but that should not vitiate our judgement of his thoughts. There is little gratitude in politics. Gratitude to a leader who has rendered valuable services, is one thing; judging his individual acts is quite another. The one should not be allowed to bias the other.

But this is seldom the case in India. Even Pandit Jawahar lal Nehru seems almost to believe that Mr. Gandhi is infallible.

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